

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 MAR 11 AIO :07

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 232

Submitted by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Justice and Human Rights; Ways and Means; and Finance on **MAR 11 2024**.

Re: Senate Bill No. **2597**

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1653.

Sponsor: Senator Francis G. Escudero

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Justice and Human Rights; Ways and Means; and Finance to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 1653**, introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo, entitled:

**"AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD, THEREBY
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7662, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "LEGAL EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1993", AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No. 2597**, prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**"AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7662, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE 'LEGAL EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1993'"**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1653 with Senators Tulfo, Escudero, Tolentino, and Angara as authors thereof.


Respectfully Submitted:

Chairpersons:



SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

*Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Member, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means*



SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

*Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means*

SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

*Committee on Ways and Means
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance*



SEN. SONNY ANGARA

*Committee on Finance
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means*

Respectfully Submitted:

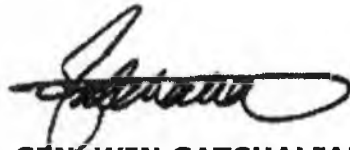
Chairpersons:

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Member, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means*

SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

*Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance
Member, Committee on Ways and Means*



"may interp/
amend"

SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

*Committee on Ways and Means
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance*

SEN. SONNY ANGARA

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Senior Vice Chairpersons

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SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO

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Vice Chairpersons



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 *Will interpose/amend*

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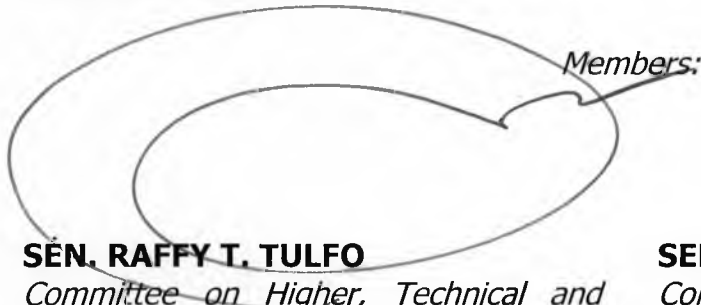
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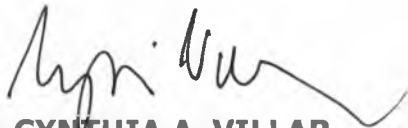
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Committee on Finance*

SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA

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SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA


*Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Committee on Finance*

Ex Officio Members:

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA

*President Pro Tempore
Senior Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance*

SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA
Majority Leader

“will interpellate”

SEN. AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III
Minority Leader

HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Senate President

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 MAR 11 AIO :13

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE BILL NO. 2597

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Justice and Human Rights; Ways and Means; and Finance with Senators Tulfo, Escudero, Tolentino, and Angara as authors thereof

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7662, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LEGAL
EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1993'**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7662, is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "Sec 2. *Declaration of Policies.* - It is hereby declared the policy
4 of the State to uplift the standards of legal education in order to
5 prepare [law] students **OF LEGAL EDUCATION** for advocacy,
6 counselling, problem-solving, and decision-making; to infuse in them
7 the ethics of the legal profession; to impress upon them the
8 importance, nobility and dignity of the legal profession as an equal and
9 indispensable partner of the Bench in the administration of justice;
10 and, to develop socially-committed lawyers with integrity and
11 competence.

12 "Towards this end, the State shall undertake appropriate
13 reforms in the legal education system[, ~~require proper selection of law~~

1 students,] **THAT WOULD** maintain quality among [~~law schools, and~~
2 require legal apprenticeship and continuing] legal education
3 **INSTITUTIONS.**"

4 Sec. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7662, is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6 "Sec. 3. *General and Specific Objectives of Legal Education.* –

7 "(a) Legal Education in the Philippines is geared to attain the
8 following general objectives:

9 "(1) to prepare students **OF LEGAL EDUCATION** for the
10 practice of law;

11 "(2) to increase awareness among [~~members of the~~
12 **STUDENTS OF** legal [~~profession~~] **EDUCATION** of the needs
13 of the poor, deprived and oppressed sectors of society;

14 "(3) to train [~~persons~~] **STUDENTS OF LEGAL**
15 **EDUCATION** for leadership;

16 "(4) **TO UNDERTAKE LEGAL RESEARCH AND**
17 **IMPLEMENT LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS; AND**

18 "[~~4~~] (5) to contribute towards the promotion and
19 advancement of justice and the improvement of [~~its~~] **THE**
20 administration[~~,~~] **OF** the legal system and legal **EDUCATION**
21 institutions in the light of the historical and contemporary
22 development of law in the Philippines and [~~in other countries~~]
23 **THE REST OF THE WORLD.**

24 "(b) Legal education shall aim to accomplish the following
25 specific objectives:

26 "(1) to impart among [~~law~~] students **OF LEGAL**
27 **EDUCATION** a broad knowledge of **THE** law and its various
28 fields, **PHILOSOPHIES, SYSTEMS** and [~~of legal~~] institutions;

1 “(2) to enhance [~~their~~] **THE** legal research abilities [~~to~~]
2 **OF STUDENTS OF LEGAL EDUCATION**, enable them to
3 analyze, articulate and apply the law effectively, [~~as well as to~~]
4 **AND** allow them to **DEVELOP AND ADOPT** [~~have~~] a holistic
5 approach [~~to~~] **IN ADDRESSING** legal problems and issues;

6 “(3) to prepare [~~law~~] students **OF LEGAL EDUCATION**
7 for advocacy, counselling, problem-solving and decision-making,
8 and develop their ability to deal with recognized legal problems
9 of the present and the future;

10 “(4) to develop **THE** competence **OF STUDENTS OF**
11 **LEGAL EDUCATION** in any field of law as is necessary for
12 gainful employment or sufficient as a foundation for future
13 training beyond the basic professional degree, and to develop in
14 them the desire and capacity for continuing study and self-
15 improvement;

16 “(5) to inculcate [~~in them~~] **AMONG STUDENTS OF**
17 **LEGAL EDUCATION** the ethics and responsibilities of the legal
18 profession; and

19 “(6) to produce lawyers who conscientiously pursue the
20 lofty goals of their profession and faithfully adhere to its ethical
21 norms.”

22 Sec. 3. A new Section 4 is hereby inserted after Section 3 of Republic Act No.
23 7662 to read as follows:

24 **“SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – AS USED IN AND FOR**
25 **THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT:**

26 **“(A) BASIC LAW PROGRAM SHALL REFER TO AN**
27 **ACADEMIC DEGREE PRIMARILY AND SOLELY DESIGNED FOR**
28 **THE TRAINING AND FORMATION OF PROSPECTIVE LAWYERS**

1 AND AS A REQUIREMENT FOR TAKING THE BAR
2 EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE SUPREME COURT;

3 "(B) *GRADUATE LAW PROGRAM* SHALL REFER TO AN
4 ADVANCED ACADEMIC DEGREE IN LAW, SUCH AS THE
5 MASTER OF LAWS, DOCTOR OF LAWS, OR THEIR ACADEMIC
6 EQUIVALENTS;

7 "(C) *LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS* SHALL REFER TO
8 THE BASIC AND GRADUATE LAW PROGRAMS AS DEFINED
9 UNDER THIS ACT;

10 "(D) *LEGAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS* SHALL REFER
11 TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS DULY RECOGNIZED
12 BY THE COMMISSION ON LEGAL EDUCATION CREATED
13 UNDER THIS ACT, AND DULY AUTHORIZED TO OFFER LEGAL
14 EDUCATION AS DEFINED UNDER THIS ACT; AND

15 "(E) *LEGAL EDUCATION STUDENTS* SHALL REFER TO
16 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN BASIC AND/OR GRADUATE LAW
17 PROGRAMS."

18 Sec. 4. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby renumbered as Section 5
19 and amended to read as follows:

20 "Sec. [4.] **5. COMMISSION ON Legal Education [Board];**
21 *Creation and Composition.* – To **EFFECTIVELY** carry out the
22 [purposes] **PROVISIONS** of this Act, there is hereby created the
23 **COMMISSION ON Legal Education [Board]**, hereinafter referred to
24 as the [Board] **COMMISSION**, attached solely for budgetary
25 purposes and administrative support to the [~~Department of Education,~~
26 ~~Culture and Sports~~] **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**
27 **(CHED)**.

28 "The [Board] **COMMISSION** shall be composed of a
29 [~~Chairman~~] **CHAIRPERSON**, who shall preferably be a former justice

1 of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals, and the following as regular
2 members: a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines
3 (IBP); a representative of the Philippine Association of Law Schools
4 (PALS); a representative **FROM THE RANKS** of [~~the Philippine~~
5 ~~Association of~~] Law Professors [~~(PALP)~~]; a representative from the
6 ranks of active law practitioners; and, a representative from the law
7 students' sector. The [~~Secretary of the Department of Education,~~
8 ~~Culture and Sports~~] **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CHED**, or his
9 representative, shall be an *ex officio* member of the [Board]
10 **COMMISSION**.

11 "With the exception of the representative of the law students'
12 sector, the Chairman and regular members of the [Board]
13 **COMMISSION** must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and
14 members of the Philippine Bar, **OF PROVEN PROBITY AND**
15 **INTEGRITY, AND** who have been engaged for at least ten (10) years
16 in the practice of law[, ~~as well as in the teaching of law in a duly~~
17 ~~authorized or recognized law school]."~~

18 Sec. 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby renumbered as Section 6
19 and amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. [~~5.~~] **6. Term of Office; Compensation.** – The [Chairman]
21 **CHAIRPERSON** and regular members of the [Board] **COMMISSION**
22 shall be appointed by the President for a term of five (5) years,
23 [~~without~~] **ELIGIBLE FOR** reappointment **FOR ANOTHER TERM**,
24 from a list of at least three (3) nominees prepared, with prior
25 authorization from the Supreme Court, by the Judicial and Bar Council,
26 for every position or vacancy, and no such appointment shall need
27 confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. Of those first
28 appointed, the [Chairman] **CHAIRPERSON** and the representative of
29 the IBP shall hold office for five (5) years; the representatives of the
30 PALS and [~~the PALP~~] **LAW PROFESSORS** for three (3) years; and the
31 representative from the ranks of active law practitioners and the

1 representative of the law students' sector for one (1) year, without
2 reappointment. Appointments to any vacancy **CAUSED BY DEATH,**
3 **DISQUALIFICATION, INCAPACITY, OR RESIGNATION,** shall be
4 only for the unexpired portion of the term of the predecessor.

5 The [Chairman] **CHAIRPERSON** and regular members of the
6 [Board] **COMMISSION** shall have the same [salary] **SALARIES** and
7 [rank] **RANKS** as the [Chairman] **CHAIRPERSON** and members,
8 respectively, of the Constitutional Commissions: *Provided,* That their
9 salaries shall not be diminished during their term of office.

10 Sec. 5. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby repealed.

11 Sec. 6. A new Section 7 is hereby inserted after the renumbered Section 6 of
12 Republic Act No. 7662 to read as follows:

13 **"SEC. 7. SECRETARIAT. – THE COMMISSION SHALL**
14 **ORGANIZE A SECRETARIAT WHICH SHALL BE HEADED BY AN**
15 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO BE APPOINTED BY THE**
16 **COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION SHALL FIX THE**
17 **SECRETARIAT'S STAFFING PATTERN, DETERMINE THE**
18 **DUTIES, QUALIFICATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND**
19 **FUNCTIONS, AS WELL AS THE COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR**
20 **THE POSITIONS TO BE CREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
21 **RELEVANT CIVIL SERVICES LAWS AND REGULATIONS. THE**
22 **COMMISSION SHALL, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE**
23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT**
24 **LAWS AND REGULATIONS, ESTABLISH FIELD OFFICES IN**
25 **LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO AND APPOINT SUCH**
26 **OFFICES AND EMPLOYEES AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY IN**
27 **THE EXERCISE OF ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS."**

28 Sec. 7. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby renumbered as Section 8
29 and amended to read as follows:

1 "Sec. ~~[7.]~~ **8. Powers and Functions.** — For the purpose of
2 achieving the objectives of this Act, the ~~[Board]~~ **COMMISSION,**
3 **WITHOUT ENCROACHING UPON THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM OF**
4 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING,** shall ~~[have]~~ **EXERCISE**
5 the following powers and functions:

6 "(a) to administer the legal education system in the country in a
7 manner consistent with the provisions of this Act, **INCLUDING THE**
8 **FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT**
9 **PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON LEGAL EDUCATION**
10 **AND RESEARCH;**

11 "(b) to supervise ~~[the law schools]~~ **LEGAL EDUCATION**
12 **INSTITUTIONS** in the country, **BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE,**
13 consistent with its powers and functions as herein enumerated;

14 "(c) to set the standards of accreditation for ~~[law schools]~~
15 **LEGAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS** taking into account, among
16 others, **THE NUMBER OF RECOGNIZED LEGAL EDUCATION**
17 **INSTITUTIONS,** the size of enrollment, the qualifications of the
18 members of the faculty, the **AVAILABILITY OF** library and other
19 facilities **INCLUDING THOSE FOR VIRTUAL OR ON-LINE**
20 **LEARNING**~~[, without encroaching upon the academic freedom of~~
21 ~~institutions of higher learning];~~

22 "(d) to accredit ~~[law schools]~~ **LEGAL EDUCATION**
23 **INSTITUTIONS** that ~~[meet]~~ **COMPLY WITH** the **POLICIES,**
24 standards **AND GUIDELINES** of ~~[accreditation]~~ **THE COMMISSION;**

25 "(e) to prescribe minimum standards for ~~[law]~~ admission **TO**
26 **LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS** and minimum qualifications and
27 compensation of faculty members;

28 "(f) to prescribe the basic curricula for ~~[the course of study]~~
29 **LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS** aligned to the requirements for
30 admission to the Bar, ~~[law]~~ practice **OF PROFESSION** and social
31 consciousness, and such other courses of study as may be prescribed

1 by **LEGAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS** [~~the law schools and~~
2 ~~colleges~~] under the different levels of accreditation status;

3 ~~"[(g) to establish a law practice internship as a requirement for~~
4 ~~taking the Bar which a law student shall undergo with any duly~~
5 ~~accredited private or public law office or firm or legal assistance group~~
6 ~~anytime during the law course for a specific period that the Board may~~
7 ~~decide, but not to exceed a total of twelve (12) months. For this~~
8 ~~purpose, the Board shall prescribe the necessary guidelines for such~~
9 ~~accreditation and the specifications of such internship which shall~~
10 ~~include the actual work of a new member of the Bar];~~

11 **"(G) TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE**
12 **OF LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND LEGAL EDUCATION**
13 **INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF APPLICABLE**
14 **INCENTIVES AND/OR SUBSIDIES, AS WELL AS IMPOSITION**
15 **OF APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED**
16 **TO, DIMINUTION OR WITHDRAWAL OF INCENTIVES AND/OR**
17 **SUBSIDIES, WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION,**
18 **TERMINATION OF LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, OR**
19 **CLOSURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS;**

20 ~~"[(h) to adopt a system of continuing legal education. For this~~
21 ~~purpose, the Board may provide for the mandatory attendance of~~
22 ~~practicing lawyers in such courses and for such duration as the Board~~
23 ~~may deem necessary; and]~~

24 **"(H) TO IDENTIFY, SUPPORT AND DEVELOP POTENTIAL**
25 **CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION FOR THE**
26 **DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD-CLASS LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP, AND**
27 **THE PROMOTION OF RULE OF LAW, NATION-BUILDING AND**
28 **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT;**

29 **"(I) TO IMPOSE AND COLLECT REASONABLE FEES AND**
30 **CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISION OF**
31 **SERVICES BY THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT**
32 **LIMITED TO, THE PROCESSING OF ACCREDITATION,**

1 **ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATION, AND THE CONDUCT OF**
2 **SEMINAR AND/OR TRAINING PROGRAMS;**

3 **“(J) TO IMPOSE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS**
4 **ACT AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED PURSUANT**
5 **THERE TO;**

6 **“(K) TO ACCEPT GRANTS, BEQUESTS, ENDOWMENTS,**
7 **DONATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE**
8 **USED FOR THE PROMOTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND**
9 **SCHOLARSHIP IN THE COUNTRY AND/OR FOR THE**
10 **REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES ENshrined IN THIS ACT;**

11 **“(L) TO SUBMIT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS**
12 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE**
13 **ADMINISTRATION OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH;**
14 **AND**

15 **“(M) to perform such other functions and prescribe such**
16 **rules and regulations necessary for the attainment of the policies and**
17 **objectives of this Act.**

18 Sec. 8. Sections 8, 9 and 10 of Republic Act No. 7662 are hereby repealed.

19 Sec. 9. A new Section 9 is hereby inserted after the renumbered Section 8 of
20 Republic Act No. 7662 to read as follows:

21 **“SEC. 9. ACCREDITATION OF LEGAL EDUCATION**
22 **INSTITUTIONS. – THE COMMISSION MAY ACCREDIT LEGAL**
23 **EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND AUTHORIZE THE SAME TO**
24 **OFFER LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM UPON COMPLIANCE**
25 **WITH ITS POLICIES, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES. NO**
26 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION MAY OFFER LEGAL EDUCATION**
27 **PROGRAMS UNLESS DULY ACCREDITED BY THE**
28 **COMMISSION.**

29 **“THE COMMISSION MAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
30 **REQUIREMENTS OF DUE PROCESS, WITHDRAW OR**

1 **DOWNGRADE THE ACCREDITATION STATUS OF LEGAL**
2 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION WHICH FAILS TO COMPLY WITH**
3 **ITS POLICIES, STANDARDS OR GUIDELINES. THE**
4 **WITHDRAWAL OR DOWNGRADING OF ACCREDITATION**
5 **STATUS SHALL BE EFFECTIVE AFTER THE LAPSE OF THE TERM**
6 **FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT BY THE LEGAL EDUCATION**
7 **INSTITUTION CONCERNED OF THE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL**
8 **OR DOWNGRADING UNLESS, IN THE MEANTIME, THE LEGAL**
9 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION CONCERNED SATISFIES THE**
10 **DEFICIENCIES OR COMPLIES WITH THE POLICIES,**
11 **STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES OF THE COMMISSION UPON**
12 **WHICH THE WITHDRAWAL OR DOWNGRADING OF THE**
13 **ACCREDITATION STATUS IS BASED.”**

14 Sec. 10. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby renumbered as
15 Section 10 and amended to read as follows:

16 “Sec. [11] **10. *Legal Education Fund.*** – There is hereby created
17 a special endowment fund to be known as the Legal Education Fund,
18 **HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE FUND,** which shall be **USED**
19 **EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND STRENGTHENING**
20 **OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY. THE FUND SHALL BE**
21 under the control of the [Board] **COMMISSION,** and **SHALL BE**
22 administered as a separate fund by the Social Security System (SSS),
23 which shall invest the same with due and prudent regard to its
24 solvency, safety and liquidity.

25 “~~The Legal Education Fund shall be [established out of, and~~
26 ~~maintained from, the amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph 2,~~
27 ~~Section 13 hereof, and]~~ **SOURCED** from **THE FOLLOWING:** [sixty
28 percent (60%) of the privilege tax paid by every lawyer effective Fiscal
29 Year—1994,]; **(I) FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED FOR**
30 **SERVICES RENDERED BY THE COMMISSION; (II) FINES AND**
31 **PENALTIES CHARGED BY THE COMMISSION FOR VIOLATIONS**

1 **OF THIS ACT AND RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED**
2 **PURSUANT THERETO; AND (III) [and from such] GRANTS,**
3 **BEQUESTS, ENDOWMENTS,** donations, legacies, [grants-in-aid] and
4 other forms of contributions received by the [Board for the purposes of
5 this Act] **COMMISSION.**

6 "Being a special endowment fund, only the interests earned on
7 the Legal Education Fund shall be used exclusively for the purposes of
8 this Act, [including] **WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE** support for
9 faculty development grants, professorial chairs, library **AND**
10 **FACILITY** improvements, **LEGAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS,**
11 and similar programs for the advancement of [law teaching and
12 education in accredited law schools] **LEGAL EDUCATION:**
13 **PROVIDED, THAT THE FUND SHALL BE UTILIZED EQUITABLY**
14 **AMONG ALL REGIONS AND LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:**
15 **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO**
16 **PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE**
17 **IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH SUPPORT PROGRAMS:**
18 **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT NO PORTION OF THE FUND OR**
19 **INCOME THEREOF SHALL BE USED TO COVER THE**
20 **OPERATIONAL OR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES OF THE**
21 **COMMISSION.**

22 "~~The Fund shall also be used for the operation of the Board.~~
23 ~~For this purpose, an amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the~~
24 ~~interest on the Fund shall be utilized.]~~

25 **"THE ACTUAL AMOUNT TO BE USED FOR THE**
26 **IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORT PROGRAMS EVERY FISCAL**
27 **YEAR SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION:**
28 **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH AMOUNT SHALL NOT EXCEED FIFTY**
29 **PERCENT (50%) OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INTEREST**
30 **INCOME THAT ACCRUED FROM THE FUND DURING THE LAST**

1 **THREE (3) FISCAL YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE**
2 **CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.**

3 “The [Board] **COMMISSION**, in consultation with the SSS,
4 shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the collection,
5 administration and utilization of the Fund.”

6 Sec. 11. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby renumbered as
7 Section 11 and amended to read as follows:

8 “Sec. [12] **11. Coverage.** — The provisions of this Act shall
9 apply to all [~~schools and colleges of law which are presently under the~~
10 ~~supervision of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.~~
11 ~~Hereafter, said supervision shall be transferred to the Board. Law~~
12 ~~schools and colleges]~~ **EXISTING LEGAL EDUCATION**
13 **INSTITUTIONS AND THOSE** which shall be established following
14 the approval of this Act [~~shall likewise be covered].”~~

15 Sec. 12. A new Section 12 shall be inserted after the renumbered Section 11
16 of Republic Act No. 7662 to read as follows:

17 “**SEC. 12. TAX EXEMPTIONS. – ANY GRANT, BEQUEST,**
18 **ENDOWMENT, DONATION AND CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE**
19 **COMMISSION OR TO THE FUND, WHETHER IN THE FORM OF**
20 **CASH OR REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY, SHALL BE EXEMPT**
21 **FROM DONOR’S TAX AND THE SAME SHALL BE CONSIDERED**
22 **AS ALLOWABLE DEDUCTIONS FROM THE GROSS INCOME IN**
23 **THE COMPUTATION OF THE INCOME TAX OF THE DONOR, IN**
24 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL**
25 **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED.”**

26 Sec. 13. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7662 is hereby amended to read as
27 follows:

28 “Sec. 13. *Appropriation.* – The amount [~~of One million pesos~~
29 ~~(P1,000,000) is hereby authorized to be charged against the current~~

1 year's appropriation of the Contingent Fund for the initial expenses of
2 the Board **NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION**
3 **OF THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL**
4 **APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 ~~[To form part of the Legal Education Fund, there shall be~~
6 ~~appropriated annually, under the budget of the Department of~~
7 ~~Education, Culture and Sports, the amount of Ten million pesos~~
8 ~~(P10,000,000) for a period of ten (10) years effective Fiscal Year~~
9 ~~1994.]”~~

10 Sec. 14. A new Section 14 is hereby inserted after Section 13 of Republic Act
11 No. 7662 to read as follows:

12 **“SEC. 14. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. –**
13 **WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS**
14 **ACT, THE COMMISSION SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**
15 **IBP, PALS, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LAW**
16 **CENTER, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS CONCERNED,**
17 **PROMULGATE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO**
18 **EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.”**

19 Sec. 15. *Transitory Provisions.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the
20 incumbent Chairperson and Members of the Legal Education Board shall continue to
21 perform their respective duties and responsibilities and receive their corresponding
22 salaries and benefits until the expiration of their respective terms.

23 The determination of the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the
24 Commissions shall, as far as practicable, take into account the tenure and seniority
25 of the regular personnel of the Commission. Officials and employees who are
26 separated from government service as a result of the revised organizational
27 structure or staffing pattern of the Commission shall receive separation benefits to
28 which they may be entitled under the applicable laws, rules and regulations:
29 *Provided,* That those who are qualified to retire under existing retirement laws shall

1 be allowed to retire and receive retirement benefits to which they may be entitled
2 under applicable laws, rules and regulations.

3 The rules and regulations previously issued by the Legal Education Board
4 shall remain in full force and effect unless amended, modified, or repealed by
5 subsequent issuances of the Commission.

6 Sec. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is declared
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby
8 shall remain in full force and effect.

9 Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders,
10 issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and
11 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12 Sec. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately following its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,